

Women still face barriers in working life

Community members discuss equal rights, job advancement

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Women have come a long way in their fight for equality. They've achieved the right to vote, to work in almost any profession and receive the same pay for the same work. But these are just three aspects of equality, said local community women.

"Working for the government I must say there is equality in the workplace," said Joanne Amundson, Giessen Child Development Center director. "We earn the same money for the same work, and we have equal chances to get a job when we are qualified. In the Child and Youth Services and Army Community Service fields I've seen many women in leadership positions. In the private sector though I've seen inequality — in fact women have not been in leadership positions at all.

"I worked for a steel mill and ... whenever a woman was hired I heard the comments that she was being hired because of her looks," said Amundson. "It didn't

hurt me, but I thought it unfair toward those who had the qualifications but not the looks."

Women who use the weaker sex excuse create another career stopper for other women, Amundson said. "They hurt all the hard-working women, because men are still buying to the weaker sex image. They are perpetuating the myth of the inability of women to do certain things, and that makes it a problem," she said.

"I've seen women who are very professional. They like to work hard because it's important to them. Some set high goals. Then again there are others who don't to that because their job is secondary to them because they don't bring home the bread and butter. I always worked full time, and as a single mother I am the breadwinner as well as mom and dad at the same time. Work is a necessity not only for the money but also because I can make a difference," Amundson said.

Amundson said she is raising her 10-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son to both be self-reliant. "I am telling both that they have to get a good education, go to college and be able to provide for them-

selves, be self-sufficient so they never have to depend on anyone,"

Dawn Resling, director of the Supply Management Center on the Giessen Depot, has experience as both a federal civilian employee and as a military member.



Photo by Alexandra Williams
Joanne Amundson, director of the Giessen Child Development Center, has seen many hard-working women with high goals throughout her career.

"The military has come a long way in 30 years. There have been many changes in the benefits that women receive that have made things like pay and entitlements equal," she said, adding that in 1974 a law was passed which granted female service members the same financial benefits as their male counterparts. Before 1974 when two service members were married they received the man's housing allowance," she said.

"Also if an airman became pregnant she was discharged. She did not have the option to remain in the service. Women were only allowed to serve in a very limited number of career fields. Today the number of career fields that are open to women has substantially increased. Women still are not equally represented in all career fields, but now it seems to be more of not being able to meet the physical demands of the career field rather than mandated gender limitations," Resling said. "For instance women as a group don't have the same ability to lift heavy things. If the requirements of the position require heavy lifting, then limiting an individual from entering the position is not gender discrimination — it's based on physical demands of the job.



Photo courtesy of Dawn Resling

Dawn Resling (front), director of the Supply Management Center in Giessen, has seen many changes in the benefits that women receive. Family related reasons often reduce the number of women who reach leadership positions, she said.

"Military wives put their husband's career first, usually by necessity. It is easier for women to advance in her career if she moves with her job, not change jobs as the result of her husband's transfer. The inability to advance to higher

graded positions is the result of the decision to move with her husband, not the lack of equality in the workplace. If a man chooses to follow his military wife throughout her career,

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Women still face

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I believe he would encounter the same limitations," she said.

"Statistically, there is still a glass ceiling in both the military and civilian workplace. However I think that it is more difficult to calculate this limitation in the military because so few women have chosen to enter the military in the past. We cannot expect to have an equal number of women leaders if an equal number of women don't join the military. I think that women are responsible for the majority of the child rearing and household maintenance responsibilities in a family. They really hold down two jobs — one at home and one in the office. Because of this, I believe that many more women than men leave the service for family related reasons, further reducing the number of women who reach leadership or management levels," Resling said.

"I never had a problem as a female officer," said Maj. Jamia Byrns, commander of the Friedberg Health Clinic and the mother of a five-month-old boy. "As a matter of fact my chief nurse, my executive officer and my first sergeant are all women, so I can say there is equality. Because women work in support,

supply and the medical field they might not be in the combat units, but you still see them in combat."

Advancing in her military career and earning the respect of her Soldiers and fellow officers is a result of her hard work, she said. "I work hard and showed that I am a good officer, a good doctor and a good administrator. Any Soldier, male or female, has to do that to have a successful career," she said.

"The conditions for women have improved, but some aspects are difficult. Motherhood often changes the career, and women have to make sacrifices," she said. "You depend on child care, which often limits the hours you can be at work. When the child gets sick it's the mother who will take off work caring for it. I doubt that anyone calls the father asking him to leave work to care for the child."

"When I come home at night I cannot take my boots off and my day as a commander is over. That's when I become a mom and I need to do the shopping and cooking for my family. Most men don't have to do that," Byrns said. "But I can have the worst day at work or

my son can get me up at 2 a.m., when I hold him and he smiles at me I know it's all worth it."

Children are the reason for second thoughts in a woman's career planning, Byrns said. "I always wanted to become a career Army doctor and I wanted to deploy, go to the field — just do all those Army things. Since I've had Connor I've had second thoughts," Byrns said. "I still want to deploy

with the Soldiers and be a commander and a doctor, but that means to separate from my son. It's already hard being away from my son for 12-13 hours a day when I am here.

And my husband who is also in command is lucky if he gets to see him on weekends."

"Strong women will succeed because they want to," said Byrns.

"I have sacrificed all my dreams for his dreams, said Angie Robinson, the spouse of a Soldier. "That is something we often argue about."

"Women have to make a choice at one point, especially when you are married to a service member," Robinson said. "It's hard

to find a good job because you won't stay for long. If you find a good job you have to worry if you will be able to work hard because what happens if your child gets sick? They will call you and not your husband. It's just expected of you. Men don't have to make the same choices, and women try to juggle everything."

"Because of a few [women] who just complain and play the weak woman all the time they [men] don't take you seriously and you are considered an over-emotional drama person if you make a point," she said. "I think strong women, women who speak their mind, are often a threat to men."

"I support the idea of female Soldiers, and I look up to them," she said. "But unfortunately they do not get the respect they deserve because a few bad ones ruin it for the really good ones."

Robinson said she often hears male Soldiers making comments about their female counterparts. "Some women just make it really bad for the rest. They are promiscuous and have little respect for themselves, and that's what men see. And they apply that to all female Soldiers. To me that's inequality, because they would not like to be judged by the act of one man," Robinson said.

"Women have to make a choice, especially when you are married to a service member." — Angie Robinson.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlights

OCS board

The 284th Base Support Battalion hosts an Officer Candidate School board May 20 starting at 9 a.m. in the BSB conference in Building 115 on the Giessen Depot. Soldiers wishing to appear before the board must submit their completed OCS packets no later than May 6 to the 284th BSB Human Support Services. Call Martina Hulse at mil 343-8995 or send faxes to mil 343-7838.

Free ACS classes and more

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center is closed until further notice. The Butzbach Outreach Center hosts a **Soup's On luncheon** April 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Parent and Me Playtime** is held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon and **Story Time** is scheduled for April 6 and 20 from 1-2:30 p.m. A **Money and Credit** class takes place April 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. Giessen Army Community Service hosts **Computer Skills** and **Basic Internet** every Tuesday from 2-4:30 p.m. Registration is required. **Federal Resume** classes are held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Friedberg ACS offers **Stress Management** training every second Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. and an **Anger Management** class every third Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. A **Checkbook Management** class is scheduled for April 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. For details call Giessen ACS at mil 343-7618, Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or Butzbach ACS at civ

(06033)925 329.

Friedberg art contest

Friedberg Arts and Crafts hosts the 284th Base Support Battalion Annual Art Roundup and 104th Area Support Group Spring Into Art contest in April. The deadline for entries is April 15, and the award ceremony takes place April 22. All authorized ID card holders age 10 and older are invited to compete. Categories include fine arts and crafts such as drawing, painting, ceramics, quilting, jewelry, wood-working, photography and more. Applications are available at all 104th ASG arts and crafts shops. For more information call the Friedberg Arts and Crafts Shop at mil 324-3266.

Upcoming trips

Outdoor Recreation hosts a trip to the **Dachau concentration camp and the Munich BMW Museum** March 19. The cost is \$49 for adults, \$39 for children age 4-13 and \$19 for children up to 3. A **Rothenburg sightseeing** trip will be hosted March 26. The cost is \$26 for adults, \$20 for children age 4-13 and \$10 for children up to 3. For details call mil 343-8202.

BOSS trip

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a Paris Express trip April 8-10. The cost is \$70 per person and includes round-trip transportation. Participants will be

able to tour the city on their own. For more information call Frank Rojas at mil 324-3158.

Mom-to-Mom support meeting

The next Mom-to-Mom Peer Support meeting takes place March 23 at 3 p.m. at the Women, Children and Infants-Overseas office in Butzbach's Roman Way Housing (across from the health clinic). Pregnant women, new mothers, mothers with breastfeeding experience and anyone interested in information on breastfeeding are welcome to attend. Nurslings are welcome. For details call Tammy Castro-Leduc at civ (0641) 402-1550.

ACAP workshops

The Army Career and Alumni Program in Giessen hosts a **job search workshop** March 15-16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A **resume writing** class will be held March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. An **advanced interviewing** class takes place March 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All classes will be conducted in the Education Center in Building 7 on the Giessen Depot. Any Soldier within one year of ETS or two years of retirement may attend ACAP briefings. To sign up or for more information on ACAP services call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

Bowling center update

The Friedberg Spare Time Lanes and Lounge bowling center hosts a **St. Patrick's Day special** March 17. Anyone wearing green that day bowls for half price and can participate in a best outfit contest (military attire does not count). Staff will judge in the morning and in the evening the most creative and original outfits. A **National Family Night** will be held March 24. The cost is \$25 for a family of four and includes two combo meals, two kid's meals, bowling, shoe rental and two pitchers of soda. Additional persons are \$5. An **Easter Brunch** is scheduled for March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The eat-all-you-can buffet includes an array of breakfast and lunch items, juice and free champagne as well as



Photo by Alexandra Williams

It's green eggs

Butzbach Elementary School students enjoy a serving of green eggs and ham during the school's Dr. Seuss birthday celebration. Elementary schools in the 284th Base Support Battalion marked Seuss' birthday with the Read Across America program which stresses the importance of reading to children.

pies, cakes and desserts. The cost is \$15 per adult, \$10 for each child 6-12 and children age 5 and under eat for free. A **March Madness Playstation Tournament** takes place March 19-20. For details on these programs call mil 324-3270.

The Giessen Ironsides Lanes hosts a **Single Parents Day** March 20. Children bowl for free and eat lunch for half price when they are accompanied by their single parent. March 21 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. the center celebrates the beginning of spring. Anyone dressed in shorts bowls for \$1 per game and shoe rental is for free. March 24 from 3-11 p.m. the center celebrates **National Family Day**. Families receive a special discount. **Easter Bowling** is

scheduled for March 27. Families bowl for \$10 per lane, and a special menu will be served from noon to 8 p.m. For details call mil 343-6172.

Easter service March 27

A Lutheran Easter festival will be held March 27 starting at 10 a.m. in Building 6543 (left stairwell) across from the Health Clinic in Butzbach's Roman Way Village. Call Chaplain (Capt.) Lewis Messinger at mil 324-3223 for more information.

Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for all housing areas is April 8. Put out bulk items the evening before the scheduled pickup date.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

It's story time

Children of the Bad Nauheim School-Age Services 4-H Citizenship Club read stories to the children of the Bad Nauheim Child Development Center. Both organizations are partners in the community and support each other's programs.

Rugby team seeks more players

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Interested in playing a rough, competitive sport but football and basketball just aren't your thing? The Giessen rugby team seeks interested men who want to join them to participate in local competitions and Army-sponsored tournaments.

The typical British contact sport is played at full speed, has hardly any breaks and challenges players to perform at their physical best.

"Currently we have five American players on the team," said Aaron Eckert of the 284th Base Support Battalion Sports Office and team organizer. "Altogether we have 30 players on the roster and 15 on the team. New players are always welcome. We meet at the university sports fields twice a week. During practice we have a pretty good mix of different nationalities as we have Germans, British, French and Americans playing together."

Games take place on weekends taking players to different locations in Europe, said Eckert. "The next game takes place April 9 in Illesheim. It's the Armed Forces Europe tournament, Eckert said. "We are also preparing for the Military Nationals May 7-8 at Fort Benning, Ga. Anyone who'd like to come to our practice can join the team. If he's good enough he can play for us at the Nationals."



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Spc. Nathan Runge (from left), Aaron Eckert and Spc. Gabriel Schreiber are members of the rugby team. Anyone interested in playing can come to the twice weekly practices at the sports field of the Giessen University, across from the Miller Hall Fitness Center.

"I never played rugby until I came to Germany. Some of my friends played here in Giessen so I went to practice with them one day," said Spc. Gabriel Schreiber, Battery A., 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery. I had nothing else to do and it was nice to get out of the barracks. The sport is fun and a good way to get out of the barracks and meet new people."

Schreiber, who used to play football and baseball, said rugby can't be compared to all-American sports. "First of all you don't wear any pads, and second you don't stop playing. You are moving the entire time, unlike football where you make a move and stop. The game keeps you going, and the players make all the decisions right on the spot. You

have to figure out right then what you're going to do next," he said.

Nathan Runge, also of Battery A, 2-3rd FA, played football and lifted weights before joining the rugby team. "It's a fast game; there is a lot of running around, but I enjoy being active. Not wearing pads makes it interesting and more fun. The hardest part though is learning the rules. At first it's difficult, but it's still fun. I hope I make it to the all-Army team," Runge said.

"Military rugby is a very small, tight group and everybody knows each other's name. The majority of players are officers. I would say they make up between 70-75 percent," said Eckert.

"That's not causing any problems though. There's a big difference between work and rugby," said Schreiber. "It's nice to be able to call an officer by his first name when we play. You meet them out of their work environment and you share the same interest. It's not a problem to pay him respect at work and go back to calling him 'sir,'" Schreiber said.

The rugby team meets for practice Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Giessen University sports fields adjacent to the Miller Hall Fitness Center in Giessen.

For more information send an email to the team's secretary Gerald.broom8@us.army.mil or the coach at dmcdmc8@yahoo.com.

Gators strive for supply excellence award

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs

Soldiers of 501st Forward Support Battalion's Company A Forward Distribution Point warehouse are gearing up for the chief of staff

of the Army Supply Excellence Award 2005 competition that will be held in March.

Eight months after redeploying it's a challenge, but the "Gators" are ready for the competition.

"It is a lot of work and we work

many late hours and weekends, but it's worth it. We are proud of our warehouse, and we take pride in what we do," said warehouse noncommissioned officer in charge Silvia Mitchell.

Mitchell already redeployed last January to prepare for the 1st Brigade's return and the competition.

"It was hard to get re-established, but I kept my eyes open to see what we can improve and to be as organized as we can be. When I go to meetings in other locations I take a look at how they do things and see how we can improve. We want to give our customers the best and most efficient service," she said.

The warehouse stocks a variety of 2,845 different parts ranging from engines and transmissions to bolts and nuts based on the demand of the brigade's units. If a needed part is not on hand they will either obtain it from other warehouses or order it at wholesale in the States, she said.

The daily business is strenuous because parts are in high demand to repair vehicles, but the ware-



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Alexandra Fay (from left), Pfc. Heather Corralejo and Andrea McFarlin register incoming parts at the 501st Forward Support Battalion warehouse.

house staff meets the challenge, they said.

"Dexheim already pulled out because it's really tough, but we want to win," she said.

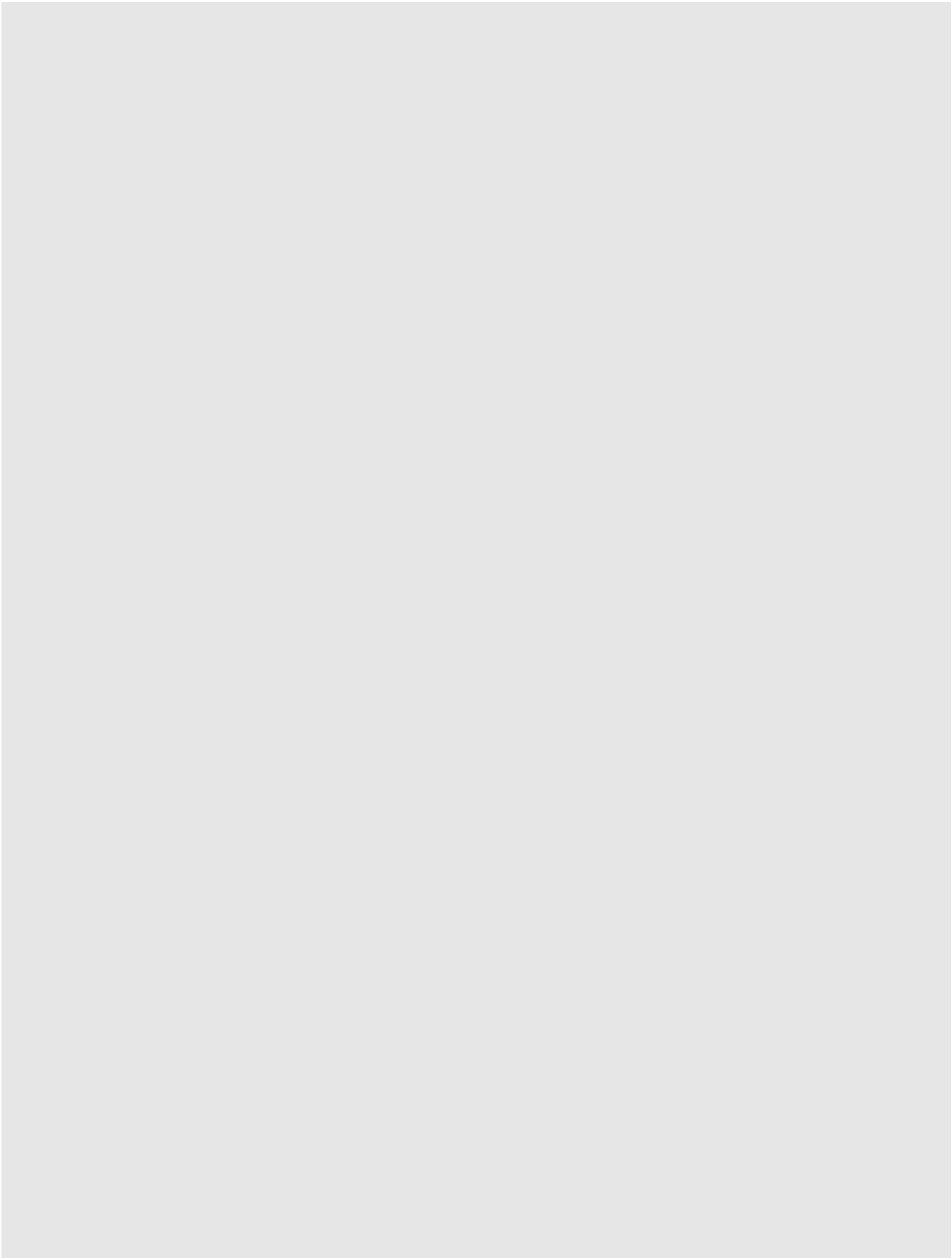
Currently there are 19 Soldiers and seven civilians assigned to the activity. "They (civilians) are a big help because they are doing all the shipping and up and downloading," Mitchell said.

The competition will be opened by inspectors from the 1st Armored Division who will rate all warehouses

that are competing at the division level. The winner qualifies to enter the Department of the Army competition, Mitchell said.

"They will take a close look if all stock is at the location, if stock has the right quantity, if inventories were done, if customers received the correct parts at the right time, if the turn-ins are correct and if signature cards are on hand — basically everything we do," she said.

"I am confident that will win—at least the first round," Mitchell said.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

ACS features wealth of services

New central location on Pioneer Kaserne

By Lisa Crews

414th Base Support Battalion Morale, Welfare and Recreation project manager

An open house March 10 welcomed community members to become more familiar with the services of Hanau Army Community Service. ACS is now centrally located in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne along with the American Red Cross and USO next to the Central Processing Center.

"We want to be even more proactive in our community, and this new location will allow us to meet that goal," said Michael Hamm, ACS director.

Visitors will find the same familiar faces in the new building but an entirely new atmosphere. "Hanau ACS is one of the nicest facilities in Europe, if not number one," said Hamm.

Wide range of programs

Among programs offered by ACS are Outreach, Family Advocacy, Emergency Placement Care, Employment Readiness, Mobilization and Deployment, Army Emergency Relief, Relocation Readiness, Financial Readiness and Army Volunteer Corps services just to list the basics. One new service began in February is the Family Solider Life Consultant program. The program encourages Soldiers and family members to



Photo by Marie Jane DeLopez

Francis Mitchell, Army Emergency Relief program manager at Hanau Army Community Service, assists SPC Eric Conlon, 5-7th Air Defense Artillery, with a financial concern.

visit a professional social worker who can offer counseling or simply someone with whom to talk over concerns.

Other new classes include Bring on the Baby Classes, Online Mobilization/Deployment Class and Deployment on Wheels. A special "Soldier Track," offered by Army Family Team Building, is aimed at helping

service members learn more about Army family life and leadership. "Soldier Track" extends the AFTB educational opportunity to those who cannot attend traditional classes during the day. Soldiers can gain five promotion points per level completed.

When family members arrive in country, seeking employment can be challenging to

say the least. An integral part of ACS is the Employment Readiness program. The newly designed ACS facility houses an area where people can work on their resumes. Carolyn Dewey, Employment Readiness manager, provides a full range of support options for those seeking employment in the local commuting area. ACS hosted its annual Job Fair where U.S. ID card holders came and met with government and local employers. Interviews were conducted and people were hired on the spot.

Helping their own

AER, another vital component of ACS, assists Soldiers and families with emergency financial needs. "I enjoy helping the service members and families in need, since you never know when an emergency may arise, and AER is there," said Francis Mitchell, AER program manager.

Volunteers will find a wealth of career-enhancing opportunities through the Army Volunteer Corps. Kristi Kolthoff, 414th BSB Army Volunteer Corps coordinator, said volunteer opportunities in the community change daily. A mentor program has kicked off in the BSB. Hanau High School, Hanau Middle School and Gelnhausen Elementary Schools are all in need of mentors.

To learn more about the various services offered in the new consolidated community support facility stop by Building 19 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne or call ACS at civ (06181) 88-8965 or mil 322-8965.



Photos by Pennie Allen

Goings on in Gelnhausen

Argonner and Gelnhausen Elementary School students discuss issues during a peer mediation session in Gelnhausen Feb. 28. The Gelnhausen Parent Teacher Association furnished the students with souvenir pencils and pizza. Photo right: Principal Essie Grant listens to first-grader Jordan Bell read during a Reading Recovery celebration with parents and staff.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Community notes . . . Community notes

Limited photo lab hours

The Department of the Army Photo Lab in Building 297 on Campo Pond will only be open on Monday and Wednesday through March 28. DA photos will be taken from 8 a.m. to noon by appointment only. Passports will be taken from 1-4 p.m.; walk-ins will be accepted. Call the Hanau Training Support Center at mil 322-8833 or civ (06181) 88-8833 for information and appointments.

FRG training

Training for current and incoming Family Readiness Group leaders and family members will be held March 29-30, May 26-27 and June 28-29 at the Women, Infants, Children-Overseas Office in the Wolfgang Outreach Center, Building 514, at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. Call Amy Cuebas at mil 322-8766 or civ (06181) 88-8766.

Bunny hop/walk/run

Celebrate Easter and get fit March 26 at 10 at Hanau's Pioneer Fitness Center Five-Kilometer Easter Bunny Hop/Walk/Run. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Call mil 322-8565 or civ (06181) 88-8197.

Easter services

Fliegerhorst Chapel hosts the following Catholic services: March 18 at 6 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** followed by soup and bread fellowship; March 20 **Palm Sunday Mass** with blessing and distribution of palms at 9 a.m. followed by a **Spanish Mass** at 12.45 p.m. and a parish **Lenten reconciliation service/confessions** at 6 p.m.; March 24 **Holy Thursday Mass** at 6 p.m. followed by **adoration** at 7 p.m. and **liturgy** at 8 p.m.; March 25 **Good Friday Service** at 5 p.m.; March 26 **Holy Saturday Easter Vigil** at 8 p.m.; March 27 **Easter Sunday Mass** at 9 a.m. followed by fellowship and a **Spanish Easter Mass** at 12:45 p.m. Pioneer Chapel on Pioneer Kaserne hosts the following Protestant services: March 24 **Maundy Thursday Service** at 7 p.m.; March 25 **Good Friday Service** at 7 p.m. and March 27 **Easter Sunrise Service** at 7 a.m.

Give to AER

The 2005 Army Emergency Relief cam-



Photo by Ulrike Raab

Honing their leadership skills

Chaplain (Capt.) Stanton D. Totter conducts a class during 709th Military Police Battalion-sponsored Family Readiness Group training Feb. 23 for 18th MP Brigade FRG leaders and rear detachment commanders. More than 35 people representing military communities ranging from Baumholder to Bamberg, Giessen to Grafenwöhr attended classes including Recognizing Volunteers, FRG Programs and Resolving Conflict. The training was hosted by Lt. Col. John Garrity, 709th MP Battalion and acting 18th MP Brigade commander. The battalion holds quarterly training sessions for FRG leaders.

paign "One Nation, One Army, One Organization" runs through May 15. Members of the Hanau community can help their own by donating. Call mil 322-8097 or civ (06181) 88-8097 for more information.

New Hanau Explorer

Pick up the latest edition of the *Hanau Explorer* at various public places such as the Commissary, PX, ACS or USO. For questions, comments or feedback on the Hanau Explorer call mil 322-1600/9102 or civ (06181) 88-1600/9102 or email paofeedback@hanau.army.mil.

New Büdingen Library hours

Büdingen Library on Armstrong Barracks is testing new hours of operation which con-

tinue through April 30. They are Monday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday noon to 7 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers can stop by the library and give their feedback. After the test period permanent hours of operation will be established. Call the Hanau Library at mil 322-9657, 322-9033 or 321-4739.

Women's History contest

Hanau community Equal Opportunity advisers are sponsoring an essay contest focusing on the theme "Women Change America" in observance of Federal Women's History Month. Essays must be submitted to local school principals by March 21. Students are invited to write an essay in honor of a woman who has changed America. Essays should be one to two pages, double spaced, typed or handwritten in ink. Teachers will choose a first, second and third place winner in each school. Winners will be announced at the Women's History Month observance scheduled for March 28 at noon (place still to be determined). Call Sgt. 1st Class Gayden at mil 323-2012 or Sgt. 1st Class Sanders at mil 323-2998 for details.

College registration underway

Term 4 college registration continues through March 25 at the Pioneer and Büdingen Education Centers. All Soldiers are encouraged to come in now for their Tuition Assistance forms. Call mil 322-9595 or civ (06181) 88-9595.

Security Office relocates to Yorkhof Kaserne

The 414th Base Support Battalion Security Office has moved to Yorkhof Kaserne, Building 1207, third floor. New telephone numbers are **Fingerprinting/In-** and

Outprocessing mil 323-2368, civ (06181) 180-2368; **Personnel Security/Operations Security** mil 323-2704, civ (06181) 180-2704; **Information and Community Security**, mil 323-2011, civ (06181) 180-2011; **FNSP Adjudication/Intel Support to Force Protection**, mil 323-2327, civ (06181) 180-2327.

Outdoor Rec and VAT Office move back to Argonner

Outdoor Recreation Leisure Travel has returned to its old location on Old Argonner Kaserne, Building 459. The new opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday noon to 8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays closed. Call Outdoor Recreation at mil 322-8891 or civ (06181) 88-8891 for information.

The Hanau Value Added Tax Office has relocated back to Old Argonner Kaserne from the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. It is now located again in Building 454, Room 12. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call mil 322-9615/9616 or civ (06181) 571 044 for more information.

Central Texas College openings

Central Texas College is looking for candidates to fill the following positions: facilities administrator, Army Learning Center operator, test administrator, counselor aide. Visit Rick Kirby on Pioneer Kaserne, Building 11, Room 219 or call mil 322-8314 or civ (06181) 88-8314.

New clinic commander

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Foe assumed command of the Hanau Health Clinic in an assumption of command ceremony March 10. Foe formerly served at the European Regional Medical Command in Heidelberg. He takes over from Lt. Col. Carolyn Tiffany who left Hanau Feb. 25 to assume duties as deputy chief of clinical services at the Ireland Army Community Hospital in Fort Knox, Ky. Foe was accompanied by his wife, Pamela, during the ceremony.



New Education Center hours

The Education Center on Pioneer Kaserne is now open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 4 p.m. During registration the opening hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Acting workshop to be held March 21-22

A free acting workshop by Carol Gutierrez will be held March 21-22 at 7 p.m. at the Five Pfennig Playhouse, Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne. Minimum age to participate is 14. Sign up at the Five Pfennig Playhouse or email 5pfennig@104asg.mwr.army.mil.

PWOC program March 31

The Hanau Chapter Protestant Women of the Chapel will feature comedian Dennis Swanberg, "America's minister of encouragement," March 31 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Pioneer Chapel. Free watch care for children age 5 and under. Call civ (06181) 575 775.



Photo by Ulrike Raab

Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann (from left) and Sgt. Filipp Vershinin serve Capt. Amanda Akers-Vornholt cake during the Army Emergency Relief Campaign kickoff ceremony. See above for details on the campaign in which Soldiers have an opportunity to help their own.

Hanau air defenders battle the elements

Red Panther tests mettle in winter

By Spc. Russel Henderson
5th Battalion 7th Air Defense Artillery

The sun had scarcely touched the fresh snow before the Soldiers of Battery B, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, rolled onto their second new site in Tauberbischofsheim in five days.

Battery B was part of a two-week battalion field training exercise, Operation Red Panther, where 5-7th ADA conducted training and evaluations while enduring the unforgiving conditions of a harsh German winter.

Maj. Kyle Kolthoff, the battalion executive officer, said each of the batteries and the maintenance company taking part in the exercise had different missions. "HHB [Headquarters and Headquarters Battery] went through an ARTEP [Army Training and Evaluations Program] evaluation. Bravo Battery conducted air battle management training, maintenance operations and supported the HHB ARTEP by serving as OPFOR [opposing force]. Charlie Battery conducted air battle management training. Echo Battery prepared for several months and executed their Patriot Gunnery Table VIII qualification. The 19th Maintenance Company conducted several key STO [survive to operate] tasks and provided support for the battalion," said Kolthoff.



Photo by Pfc. Johann Tsignonoff

Members of the 5-7th ADA train in snow during Exercise Red Panther.

"You do your job 24/7 and actually learn your wartime tasks since you're out in a field environment," said 2nd Lt. Marquai Edmondson, Battery B assistant fire control platoon leader, of his first battalion field training exercise.

Spc. Julio Rodriguez, a Battery E Patriot launcher operator and maintainer, described the weather as the most dogged obstacle Soldiers faced during the exercise because fresh snow fell almost each night but turned to mud by midday. "I'm not used to the cold," said Rodriguez, "and the mud makes it difficult to roll on and off sites."

"You train for the worst conditions possible: mud, extreme cold," said Spc. Robert Longhauser, a multi-channel transmissions systems operator and maintainer for Battery B. Longhauser said the elements made this field training exercise "a little too realistic."

The ARTEP evaluation of HHB was one of the key aspects of this exercise. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Oscar Turner, battalion electronic maintenance monitoring officer, described the ARTEP as "a test to let the world know that HHB can survive [on the battlefield]. The ARTEP is about seeing HHB at their worst and still able to fight the battle."

While each of the batteries focused on collective air defense tasks, the 19th Maintenance Company trained Soldier skills.

"Our objective was to focus on a couple warrior tasks, primarily reacting to enemy fire while mounted and night driver's training with [night vision goggles]," said Capt. Efrain Ramos, 19th Maintenance Company commander. "Some of our Soldiers had never touched a .50 [caliber machine gun] before. This time every Soldier got a chance to fire one."

Ramos said he was pleased with his Soldier's performance. "They came out here and accomplished the training," he said.

"In the middle of the night, right before we moved, my welders spot-welded the handle for the steps at the battalion tactical operations center. Additionally, my [electronic power plant] mechanics were on constant site calls making sure our systems were up and running," said Ramos highlighting two groups of Soldiers that performed particularly well.

"The battalion has fared extremely well out here in the conditions that we operated under. The weather was challenging with a muddy, snowy and rainy environment. Despite the weather challenges, 5-7th Soldiers were motivated and doing a great job of training for their mission," said Kolthoff.

After the completion of the field training exercise, the battalion returned to Hanau to recover their equipment and prepare for their next mission, a six-week deployment for a joint air defense exercise outside Germany.



Photo by Edwin Torres

African dance in Büdingen

Members of the Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theater perform African dances at the Community Center on Armstrong Barracks Feb. 24 in observance of Black History Month. The dancers explained that each dance had a unique meaning such as this dance in which plates were used to symbolize a woman's responsibilities in life.